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**Solid Waste Management Division, Department of Public Works, County of Kauaʻi**

**Proposed Business Recycling Ordinance**

**Condo Subcommittee Advisory Meeting Notes**

**Thursday, June 19, 1:00 to 3:00 PM**

**Moikeha Building, Conference Room 1, Lihuʻe Civic Center**

***[Note, Red italicized notes are post-meeting comments from the Solid Waste Division]***

**Attendees:** Rory Enright, Richie Richardson, Ike Cockett, Brian Alston

**Staff:** Allison Fraley, John Harder, Emily Medeiros

**Facilitation:** County Staff

**A. Welcome and Purpose:** Meeting commenced at 1:10 p.m.

**B. Introductions, Review of Agenda and Ground Rules:** John Harder asked participants to introduce themselves. He thanked everyone for attending and explained the purpose of the Condo Subcommittee and explained that the County is concerned about the specific elements of the ordinance. Suggest we look at some problems that were brought up last month at the Advisory Committee meeting and come up with recommendations for solutions. Allison provided ground rules for participation.

**C. Presentations on Successful Multi-family Recycling Programs:**

Brian Alston is the Resident Services Manager of Lihue Court Townhomes (LCT), comprised of 173-unit affordable rental property in Lihue. Resident Services at LCT offers services year round for approximately 450 residents in six program areas. Brian started a recycling program a couple of years ago because there was no recycling at the time and he wanted to encourage sustainable activities that involved all the residents. Realized tenants want to recycle, but program needs to be easy and convenient.

Recycling efforts include: Cardboard, Non HI5 Glass, Composting, Mixed Paper, and HI5 Beverage Containers. When the mixed paper recycling program was first started there was a lot of contamination in the bins, this was due to the language barrier (multiple ethnicities) so no one understood where things went. Adding image based signage for paper and other recyclables increased participation in the program and reduced contamination. LCT Received a recycling grant from County to purchase HI5 recycling barrels for 100 units (ultimate goal is 73 more). Residents must sign an agreement before receiving barrels. Barrels are placed outside the units. Residents redeem their own HI5 materials.

Ike Cockett is the general manager at Koloa Landing at Poipu Beach. They have 85 rooms and are recycling cardboard, green waste, and HI5 beverage containers. Housekeeping staff recycle materials. Visitors want to recycle but do not understand the rules to Hawaiʻi's HI5 program and why some glass is recycled under the program and some not, for instance. The County Recycling Office distributed handouts as well as ½ all weather labels, and recycling

guides/handouts for each room to educate guests on recycling locations around the island. Aesthetics of recycling collection bins placed on property is an issue.

#### **D. Issues for Group Discussion:**

##### Education

- The ordinance is confusing as written.
- The Reporting Form should be easy to understand. Draft form contains questions on designated materials that not all businesses will be required to recycle.
- Recycling Guide should be user friendly.
- Revise Ordinance and Guide to simplify and make it more understandable to the layman
- Visitors don't understand HI5 and existing recycling programs. Even residents are confused with residential drop bins.
- County should assume that everyone wants to recycle but it is confusing.
- County responded that they do not expect people to read the ordinance. However businesses will probably read the guidebook and will need to fill out the reporting form annually. Focus will be to make the Guide Book and Reporting Form as user friendly as possible.

##### Commercial Recycling

- Concerned that GID is not present at this subcommittee meeting. Feels that GID is an unofficial extension of the County and should be collaborating on a strategy for servicing customers in order for the law to work.
- ***The County cannot work exclusively with one private business to strategize a plan for private service. This ordinance represents a business opportunity in recycling hauling for existing businesses and new enterprises, and market demands will dictate the service that is available to customers.***
- ***Solid Waste Division provided background of Oahu garbage haulers and history. The law forced more competition, and we're hoping for a similar situation.***
- Suggest creating smaller programs with smaller bins in more locations. Space issues on properties.
- County should allow for commercial use of Residential drop bins
- County should establish regional drop points for commercial self haul.
- Existing system is not designed property, even if ordinance passes we need to get end of networks in place. The problem is that there's a single hub and we need to beef up remote drop offs.
- The County is looking at avenues to provide assistance for commercial self haul. Plan to extend program at Kīlauea mini-golf and to look at other regional drop points. Also looking into the possibility of opening up Kaua'i Recycles program to commercial. There would be a lot of challenges in doing this.

##### Condo Issues

- For more than half of condos, this is not the tenants' primary residence. Recycling needs to be easy and convenient. People want to do the right thing.

- Most condos were built decades ago with limited space to accommodate refuse collection and service, so there is not room for multiple recycling bins on property.
- The County is aware of space issues of some condos which is one of the exemptions in the law.
- Ordinance 514 B exempts 5 or fewer units.
- Condos generate a different type of waste than businesses. Suggest exempting condos from the law, or adding them at a later time when a MRF is available to manage residential recyclables.
- Perhaps condos with 15 units or less could be exemption from the law.
- Condos and multi-family units are different than businesses because there are no employees, only part-time manager at most, therefore it is hard to implement and oversee recycling programs.
- It is difficult to separate different streams of recyclables in small condos (600 sq. ft.)

#### Ordinance Discussion

- Pallets are listed in the sample list of designated recyclables but there isn't any place to recycle them on Kaua'i.
- County explained its efforts to get pallets permitted for composting. Having pallets on the sample list was a typo. Pallets will not be a designated recyclable until there are existing programs for pallets.
- For condos, why not make the non-HI5 glass a requirement? Feels that County is stepping backwards unintentionally by not requiring glass and plastic recycling.
- Start from the perspective everyone wants to recycle- having to pass a law that everyone wants is added bureaucracy.
- Shouldn't let an ordinance drive recycling. Just need more containers and because that will create more recycling in itself.
- Agree businesses in Lihue have the advantage for self-hauling. However, even in Lihue, there still a lot of material that is not recovered, and there are still a lot of businesses that don't recycle. That's why we want to pass the ordinance. They get real results.

#### **E. Subcommittee Recommendations:**

- Make recycling more convenient.
- Make ordinance easy to understand.
- Don't mandate recycling.
- Hauling systems need to be in place for programs to work.
- Establish condo recycling program and convenience.
- Allow businesses to use Kauai Recycles drop bins and add more locations.
- Should focus on asking the question how we get people to recycle. Build a network.
- Promote recycling programs more.
- If you need support to allow commercial use of Kaua'i Recycles drop bins, get Realtors involved. They're very organized and can be highly influential. Suggest getting together with Chamber and Contractor's Association as well.
- Amend Ordinance re Condos
  - ▶ Exempt small properties (less than 15 units)

- ▶ Or delay Condo implementation until MRF comes on line
- Look into best designs for multi-family recycling collection areas for limited space on a property. Consider a bulk purchase of systems to fit space. Research other communities See if there are standardized collection containers for multi-family properties.

**E. Next Steps:**

Allison noted that another meeting of the whole Advisory Committee will be held in July. We will be provided a summary of questions and answers from this meeting. Participants can email her and John with any additional input.

**F. Adjourn:** Meeting ended at approximately 3:15